

Brooklyn. Church Women United (CWU) is the world's largest ecumenical movement of Christian women. Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the movement's membership has increased to include over 700 Christian women. It is the largest unit of CWU in the country.

In response to shrewd spiritual insight, Mrs. Perry conceived the idea for an observance centered around the "Seven Last Words of Christ." For the past 25 years ecumenical worship begins at 7:00 A.M. on Good Friday and the attendance continues to grow. These services have been held in various community churches and have continued to draw over 4000 worshippers. Participants travel throughout the metropolitan area and from many other parts of the United States to attend this annual worship celebration. Additionally, she organized the initial Annual Award's Luncheon for the organization and continues to provide her expertise in this worthy cause today.

Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the Brooklyn Unit of CWU sponsors many other activities to raise funds to make contributions to others in need, including: Holiday sharing, contributions to World Church Services, Rose F. Kennedy Residence for Girls, Project Teen Aid, Herbert G. Birch Services, Antigua/Barbuda Cultural Society, Inc, Fund for Burned Churches, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulatory Service, Hurricane Floyd Victims in North Carolina and they provide aid to orphaned foreign sisters living in the U.S. She is also affiliated with Berean Missionary Baptist Church, The Women's Civic League of Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Eastern Baptist Association, Spouses of the Black Congressional Caucus and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women of Brooklyn.

She has won numerous awards for her work including: Women of the Year Award—The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Salute to Brooklyn Women Leadership Humanitarian Award—The Brooklyn League, The Woman's History Month Honoree—Brooklyn District Attorney, The Caribbean American Award—Chamber of Commerce, Outstanding Service Award—The Council of Churches, City of N.Y., Woman of Influence Award—Brooklyn YWCA, Thomas R. Fortune Community Service Award—Unity Democratic Club, Valiant Woman Award—Church Women United, Sandy F. Ray Award—Religious and Humanitarian Award—Cornerstone Baptist Church, Religious Award—People's Institutional AME Church, Religious Award—New Life Tabernacle Life Changing Ministries, Congressional Record United States House of Representatives, Woman of the Year for Community Service—Bridge Street AME Church, "Brooklyn Women of Essence" Con Edison and, finally, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Global Ministries Humanitarian Award and International Affairs Division.

After working for 18 years for Borough President Howard Golden as Liaison to the Christian Community, Borough President, Marty Markowitz appointed her as Good Will Ambassador for Brooklyn Churches.

## HONORING THE OCCOQUAN- WOODBIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant in Northern Virginia. This individual has demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and has been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the RECORD the name of the recipient of the 2009 Valor Award serving in the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Recipient of the Silver Valor Award: Firefighter Kurt Bolland.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

## A TRIBUTE TO ANGELI R. RASBURY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angeli R. Rasbury.

Angeli Rasbury is a writer, educator, artist, attorney and founder of Griot Reading Programs, which is dedicated to promoting literacy among youth of African descent and Black literature. She teaches poetry and creative writing to children as young as five-years-old and teens at the Brooklyn-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and New York Writers Coalition. She has facilitated book clubs for middle school and high school students and elders. The reading scores of every middle school student with whom she worked improved. Her writing students have received awards from teachers and city council members. She has been an instructor of creative nonfiction and memoir at the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center in New York City and has taught creative writing, college composition and African American literature at Molloy College in Long Island. Ms. Rasbury has worked with girls in a rites of passage program and works with girls involved in the juvenile-justice system. She has organized readings and book programs for children, including programs for the annual Rhymes, Rhythms and Rituals Festival sponsored by African Voices, and literary programs for the adults. She has worked with elders, collecting oral history for Elders Share the

Arts. She has been a panelist in the grant review process for artists for the Brooklyn Arts Council. Ms. Rasbury is a member of the New Renaissance Writers Guild and has been a member of the Richard Wright Project and PEN American Center Open Book Committee.

As the youth services community and partnerships associate at the central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, Ms. Rasbury has provided family-oriented Kwanza and Martin Luther King Program, Jr. Day programs where the focus is the young people in our community. She has provided a monthly art program for two years and provided an opportunity for our youth to work with award-winning and emerging artists, providing arts enrichment for youth and supporting the artists. She has partnered with various community organizations to promote literacy and youth and community development. A former editor for Black Issues Book Review and QBR: The Black Book Review, other magazines, and community newspapers. Her essays, book reviews, profiles, features and interviews have been published in Essence, American Legacy, Black Enterprise, The Source, Vibe, and other magazines and online at womensenews.com, for which she is the girls' beat reporter and focuses on detention and incarceration topics. She received a PASS Award (the only national recognition of print and broadcast journalists, TV news and feature reporters, producers, and writers, and those in film and literature who try to focus America's attention on our criminal justice system, juvenile justice system, and child welfare systems in a thoughtful and considerate manner) from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for her article "Out of Jail, Mothers Struggle to Reclaim Children". Ms. Rasbury's short stories have appeared in Anansi: Fiction of the African Diaspora. She has been quoted in the New York Times, Mosaic and Brooklyn Rail and co-edited Sacred Fire: The QBR 100 Essential Black Books. She was awarded the DorisJean Austin Fellowship for African American Fiction Writers by the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center and has been a panelist at writing and publishing conferences. She performed in Talkin' Brooklyn: A Story Circle Showcase of Elders Share the Arts and Diary of a Mad Black Feminist.

Angeli Rasbury has been keynote speaker for the Yellow Rose Awards Program for New York University's College of Arts and Science and the Brooklyn Public Library's Friends and Volunteers luncheon. She holds a B.S. from Syracuse University and a J.D. from Temple University. She practiced criminal defense law as a senior attorney with the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division. She has taught high school students various areas of the law and civil rights issues through the Law Education and Assistance Program and the New York Civil Rights Coalition and was executive director of the Nkutu Center for Education and Culture. Her photography has been published and exhibited. In her spare time she designs jewelry and loves to travel. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. She spends a lot of time with her nieces and nephews, family and friends.